

BOTUS FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 18 September 2014

Present: Councillor Adcock, Chair.
Councillors Ellis, Loveridge, Henwood, Robinson and West.

Apologies: Councillors Billing and Crook.

Also in Attendance: Cornwall Councillor Pugh and Helen Wright (Clerk).

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and finished at 8.30pm.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

66. MINUTES

The parish council agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

67. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair advised that with reference to the planning application (PA14/05572 – application for tree works subject to Tree Preservation Orders at Bar K, Vollards Lane) the neighbouring property's owner had consented to the works being undertaken.

The parish council agreed not to submit any further comments relating to this planning application.

68. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINES

The Chair advised that –

- (a) following discussions with the Vice Chair, he considered the production of the monthly tracking decisions report to be a waste of resources; he also considered this to be a slight on the Clerk, in not being trusted to undertake the work of the council;

Councillor Loveridge stated that she would be opposed to the report being stopped as she found it to be extremely helpful and referred to it when she received queries from parishioners. Councillor Loveridge also pointed out that the report did not need to be printed out and that it was by no means a slight on the Clerk.

Councillor Ellis also considered the report to be extremely helpful and as such was not intended to be a slight on the Clerk.

With the permission of the Chair, the Clerk advised that -

- (b) the following invoices had been received following the publication of the agenda-
- DCB Plant Hire £360.00 invoice 395
 - Mr C Billing £144.00 invoice 1199
 - Helen Wright (new laptop of software) £683.98
- (c) a thank you letter had been received from Mrs Mingo from the Parochial Church Council.

With regard to (a) above, a vote took place and was recorded as follows –

Councillor Loveridge proposed and Councillor Ellis seconded the proposal not to abolish the monthly tracking decisions report; a vote took place three for and three against – the Chair used his casting vote to defeat the motion.

Councillor Adcock proposed and Councillor Henwood seconded the proposal to abolish the monthly tracking decisions report; a vote took place three in favour and three against – the Chair used his casting vote by voting in favour – the motion was therefore carried.

The parish council agreed that –

- (1) with regard to (b) above, the accounts are included on the agenda for payment;
- (2) with regard to (c) above, the letter from Mrs Mingo is included on the agenda for consideration.

69. POLICE MATTERS

There were no matters raised under police matters.

70. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN POLICE MATTERS

There was no public participation in police matters.

71. MATTERS RAISED BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

Cornwall Councillor Pugh advised that he sent out a circular (News from County Hall) to the Clerks of the parishes within his constituency via email which could then be circulated. He proposed to do the same thing for the parish council.

The current news related to Cabinet's decision to retain one mobile library, the designation of Kit Hill Country Park as a Local Nature Reserve and the budget 2014/2018 engagement exercise which was being held in Saltash on 22 October 2014 at 3pm.

Councillor Pugh sought clarity as to how the parish council wished to progress planning application call-ins.

The parish council agreed that it would include the following wording 'reserve the right to call in the application to committee' on each planning application that it recommended for refusal and that Cornwall Councillor Pugh would be notified of such applications.

A discussion took place relating to the parish council's disappointment at the recent decision to approve the planning application for Way Orchard which had been considered by the Planning Committee. Councillor Pugh advised that he had abstained from the vote at the meeting and pointed out that he had a responsibility to the people that had elected him and that he needed to take a balanced view. He had also provided advice to Mr Caulfield about the democratic process for submitting his objections to the application.

72. CORRESPONDENCE

The parish council noted the correspondence that had been received, including the 'thank you' letter from Mrs Mingo, relating to the payment for the use of the church hall and the donation towards the maintenance of the cemetery.

73. ACCOUNTS

The parish council agreed to authorise the following accounts for payment –

£225.25	Helen Wright (Clerk's Salary for September 2014) to be paid by PAYE
£10.20	Helen Wright (Postage and Expenses August/September 2014)
£683.98	Helen Wright (Purchase of laptop and software)
£120.00	Grant Thornton (Annual Audit 2013/14)
£360.00	DCB Plant Hire (Grounds Maintenance Recreation Field) Invoice 395
£144.00	Mr C Billing (Grounds Maintenance in the Parish) Invoice 1199

74. RECREATION FIELD

There were no matters raised under recreation field.

74a. Future of the Recreation Field

The Clerk advised that only one quote for the valuation of the land at Cross Farm had been received, as follows –

The parish council agreed to appoint Jefferys to undertake the valuation work on the land at Cross Farm in the sum of £300 plus VAT.

A discussion took place regarding whether the parish council, should at this stage, continue to pursue the Community Right to Bid nomination for the recreation field, in light of the current position with discussions being held on the sum that the parish council would offer for the land.

The parish council agreed to put the Community Right to Bid nomination on hold until such time as the outcome of the discussions were known.

75. PLANNING MATTERS

Application: PA14/07960
Proposal: Proposed ground and first floor extensions to side of existing dwelling
Location: Camomile Cottage, Botus Fleming
Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Pomfret

Following consideration of the above planning application the parish council agreed to recommend its approval.

76. CONSTITUTION

The Clerk reported that 'The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, had come into effect on 6 August 2014. The legislation permitted the filming and recording of local council meetings, committee meetings and sub-committee meetings. The parish council was recommended to change its Standing Orders to reflect the change.

The parish council agreed to adopt NALC's model Standing Order 4 and the guidelines for broadcasting or using social media at council meetings.

The Clerk advised that this would be an opportune time to review the parish council's Standing Orders in line with NALC's Model Standing Orders.

The parish council agreed to review its Standing Orders and for this to be brought back to a future meeting of the council.

77. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

The Clerk advised that it would be difficult to reimburse parish councillors for any expenditure incurred whilst conducting parish council business in retrospect, as currently the parish council had not adopted a Councillor Allowance Scheme (The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and amended in 2004).

The Chair advised that he had not claimed for any expenses incurred whilst undertaking business on behalf of the parish council and he considered that to adopt such a scheme would be inappropriate.

Councillor Ellis considered that by not adopting such a scheme could have a detrimental effect on the development of councillors.

Councillor Loveridge considered that councillors undertaking parish business, for example in Truro, should receive a contribution for their fuel costs, as the cost of fuel was expensive.

The parish council agreed to raise this issue at a forthcoming Cluster Meeting.

The parish council further agreed to look at a model councillor allowance scheme and bring back to a future meeting of the parish council.

78. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PROGRESS UPDATE

The Clerk advised that following a recommendation she had contacted Western Web (a website design company). She had been advised that depending on how quickly information was provided, they anticipated that the website could be up and running prior to Christmas. An estimated cost for the work was in the region of £400 to £600. The Clerk urged Councillors to look at some of the recent websites that had been designed by the company which could be located on their website.

The parish council agreed to appoint Western Web to design its website at an estimated cost of £400 - £600.

79. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions raised by members of the public.

80. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Ellis raised further concerns relating to the bus services provided by Greyhound not using the bus turning bay.

Councillor West advised that he had not witnessed any services not using the bus turning bay.

81. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 16 October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall at Botus Fleming.